State Governments/UT Administrations have also been empowered to fix stock limits in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oil-seeds, rice paddy and sugar to enable them to take effective action under the Essential Commodities Act against hoarders and speculators and bring out the hoarded stock these items into the open market. However, housing is not included under essential commodities notified for the purpose.

Further, "Land" and "Colonisation" being State Subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to provide for adequate shelter at affordable prices and taking such measures as may be essential for facilitation thereof.

(c) Government of Maharashtra has informed that there is no provision to the effect that if the flats remained vacant for more than six months, the State of Maharashtra can requisition the same and make allotment of the same to the needy persons. The provision to requisition vacant premises under the Bombay Land Requisition Act, 1948 for any public purpose is not deployed for any market intervention programme to bring about correction in prices of flats.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Construction of houses under JNNURM

1406. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 16 lakh urban houses are under construction under JNNURM; and

(b) how many of these are being constructed in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A total of 14.55 lakh houses have been approved for construction under the Sub – Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Out of these 14.55 lakh houses, 9810 houses have been approved for construction for the State of Punjab.

Houses for SCs

†1407. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of categories in the Schedule Caste which have been allotted houses;

(b) the details thereof category-wise;

(c) the reasons for not allotting houses according to categories; and

(d) by when all the categories of Schedule Castes would be provided houses?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The Jawaharlal Nehru National urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) adopts a "whole slum"

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

approach. Guidelines of JNNURM do not specify the number of categories in Schedule Caste for the purpose of allotment of dwelling units. All categories in the selected slums, who are poor, are covered. It is for the State Governments to prioritize the slums and provide houses to various categories of beneficiaries living therein.

Slums in metropolitan cities

1408. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of slums has been rising sharply day by day in many metropolitan cities particularly Mumbai suburban areas posing health hazards and security problems;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken or proposes to take steps to address the problems of these slum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Urban Development being a State subject, the data regarding number of slums and the provision of amenities for overcoming health hazards and security problems are assessed and maintained by the State Government/concerned Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). As revealed by the "India Urban Poverty Report 2009", released by the Government recently, slums grow for various reasons, *viz.* continuous urban growth, prevailing speculative trends in the urban land market, inadequate formal supply of land and housing to the urban poor, gradual withdrawal of State from the supply of affordable formal housing, inadequate investment in infrastructure and basic amenities in low income settlements and weak urban governance in cities.

(c) and (d) The Government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with the basic objective to strive for holistic slum development, with a healthy and enabling environment, by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers/urban poor in identified urban areas. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States for taking up projects for housing and infrastructural facilities for slum dwellers/urban poor in 65 select cities in the country under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP). Other cities and towns are covered under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Further, the Government has recently announced a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana for the slum dwellers and the urban poor. The scheme is aimed at providing support to States that are willing to provide property rights to the slum dwellers with an effort to create slum free India.